

**SELF-ALIGNING PRINT HEAD MECHANISM
AND RELATED PRINTER AND METHOD**

ABSTRACT

A printer for printing between a print roller and a print head having a print head alignment system is provided. The print head alignment system includes a print roller assembly, a print head support assembly and an actuating assembly. The print roller assembly includes at least one stop and a print roller mounted thereto. The print head support assembly includes a print head mounted thereto and at least one detent, a surface of the detent engaging a surface of the stop to maintain alignment of the print head with the print roller. The actuating assembly is associated with one of the print head support assembly and the print roller assembly to separate the detent and the stop before moving one the print head and print roller to provide an access space between the print head and the print roller for allowing print media to be removed and inserted.

329573.1